



Pioneer Square Neighborhood Notes

October 21, 2002
9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Susan Jurasz, Peter Reedijk, Catherine McCoy

We began our survey by driving the perimeter of Pioneer Square. We then parked the car near the Starbucks on Jackson and 4th Avenue, and began a general east/west walk of the northern portion of Pioneer Square (Jackson, Main and Washington streets). We returned to the car and drove to where we could walk Columbia, Cherry, James and Jefferson streets. After walking those streets we returned to the car and drove south to the King/1st Avenue intersection. From there we drove south along 1st Avenue to Royal Brougham Way, circling around the stadiums. We continued east on Royal Brougham, to 4th Avenue, then turned north onto 4th Avenue and ended at our starting point of Jackson and 4th Avenue.

Observations

The heart of Pioneer Square was in the area around Occidental Avenue, mainly along 1st Avenue, and around Pioneer Place Park and the Victorian-style iron Pergola. The overall impression of the area north of Jackson Street was one of an old style/old town, circa late 1800's, early 1900's, feeling. Buildings are predominantly older historic brick (and wood) warehouses, hotels, and office buildings with newer and old architecture maintaining the historic themes and elements of an old town center. Several brick buildings have old advertisements painted on the outside giving the area hints of days gone-by. Current business use old style signs and awnings to direct tourists/shoppers.

Jackson, Main, and Washington

Fourth Avenue is a definite border between the International/Chinatown District and Pioneer Square. Directly east of 4th Avenue, there are visual clues to the International District/Chinatown neighborhood, such as dragons around light fixtures and stores with Chinese writing.

Directly west of Fourth Avenue in Pioneer Square old town thematic elements became apparent, such as the old building visible west along Jackson Street – the King Street Station railway depot with its clock tower. Also immediately apparent were turn-of-the-century light fixtures mounted on antique-style bases, and older traffic signs/signals. All along Jackson, Main and Washington streets, ornate plant

hangings, tree-lined cobblestone walkways, and Pioneer Square banners identify the neighborhood. Businesses reflect the area with antique stores and galleries, interspersed with residential lofts/apartments in upper floors.

There were protected (non-vehicular) pedestrian walkways, and lots of mature trees and potted plants - all contributing and supporting the old town flavor of the neighborhood.

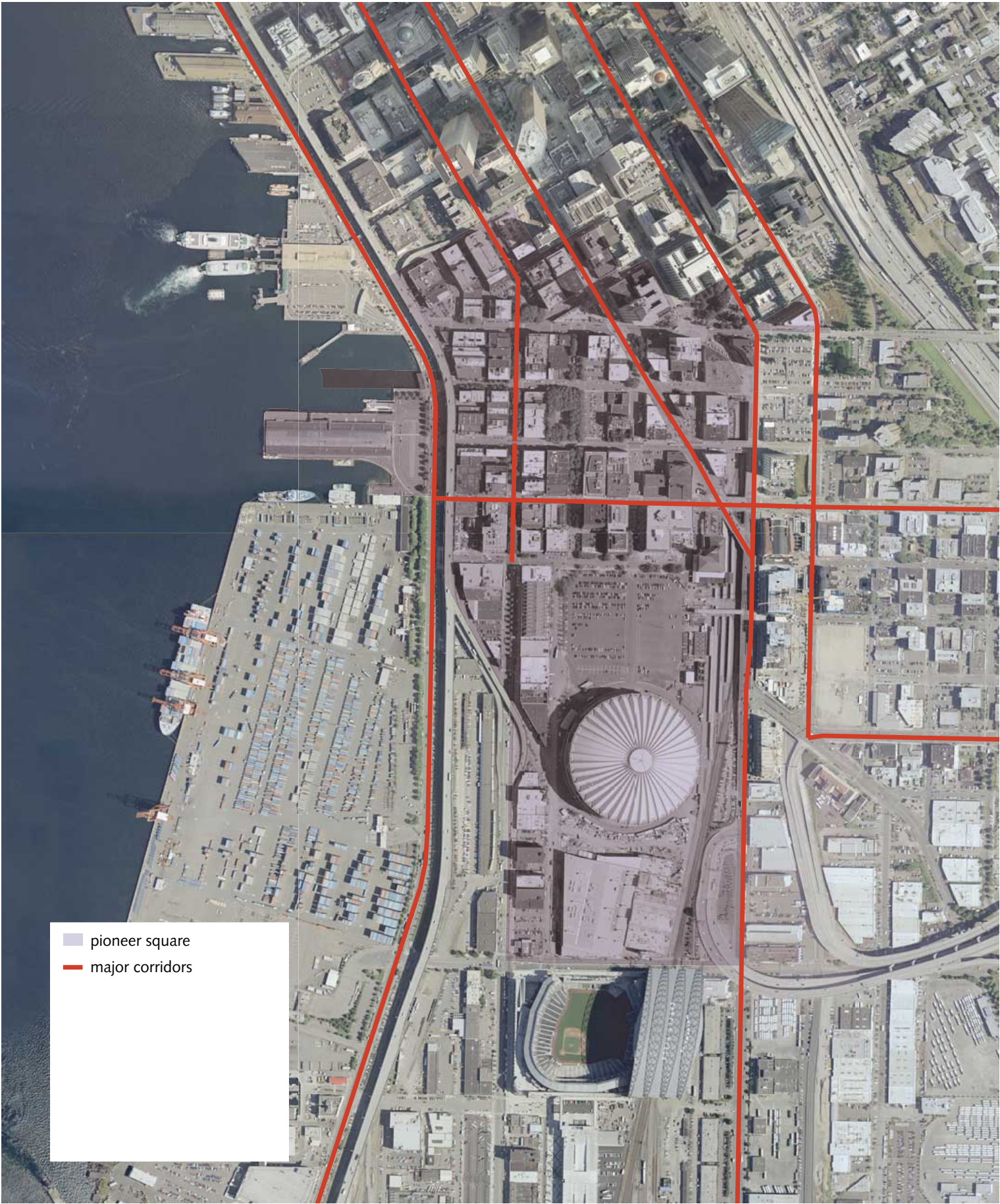
Occidental Park is a prime example of this—nestled between Main and Washington streets. It features a protected brick pedestrian area with lots of trees, benches, and public art. Historical markers and interpretive panels are present in several areas. In one corner of the park a Native American totem pole stands near a drinking fountain fitted with the bust of Chief Joseph. The Klondike Museum and the Seattle Underground tour center are two destinations with in the neighborhood.

Columbia, Cherry, and James

North of Yesler along Columbia, Cherry and James streets less of the older type thematic elements and Pioneer Square identifiers are visible. High-rise buildings (still predominantly brick) appear to be engaged in business activities. For example, the thematic light zone along Jackson, Main, and Washington streets ends at Yesler and does not carry onto Columbia, Cherry, or James Street. Vehicular traffic is heavier and pedestrian traffic lighter as there are less pedestrian walkways (bricked), fewer landscaped areas (treescapes), and fewer strong tourist attractions. This area offers access to Highway 99 and I-5 routes.

King Street South to Royal Brougham Way

Immediately south of Jackson Street and King Street to Royal Brougham Way, elements of a manufacturing and distribution area coupled with two major sports centers – Safeco Field and Seahawks Stadium offer a significant change from the “feeling” of an old town. Instead, there is clear evidence of freight and vehicular traffic through Duwamish. It is a light-manufacturing and sports-arena-centered section of the neighborhood.





1 alaskan/yesler



2 columbia/western



3 first/columbia



4 first/royal brougham



5 fourth/airport



6 fourth/jackson



7 fourth/main



8 fourth/brougham



9 fourth/washington



12 railroad/alaskan



13 second/cherry



14 thrid/yesler



14 third/yesler (2)



15 third/james



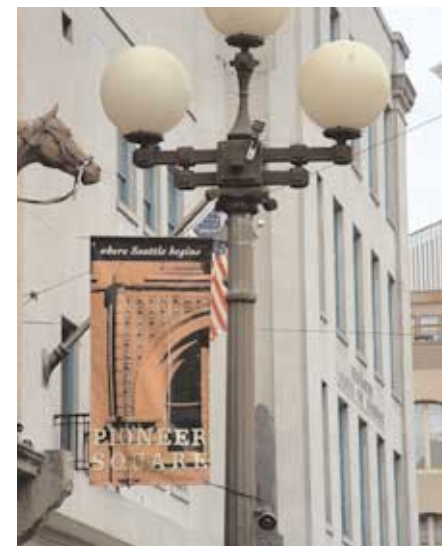
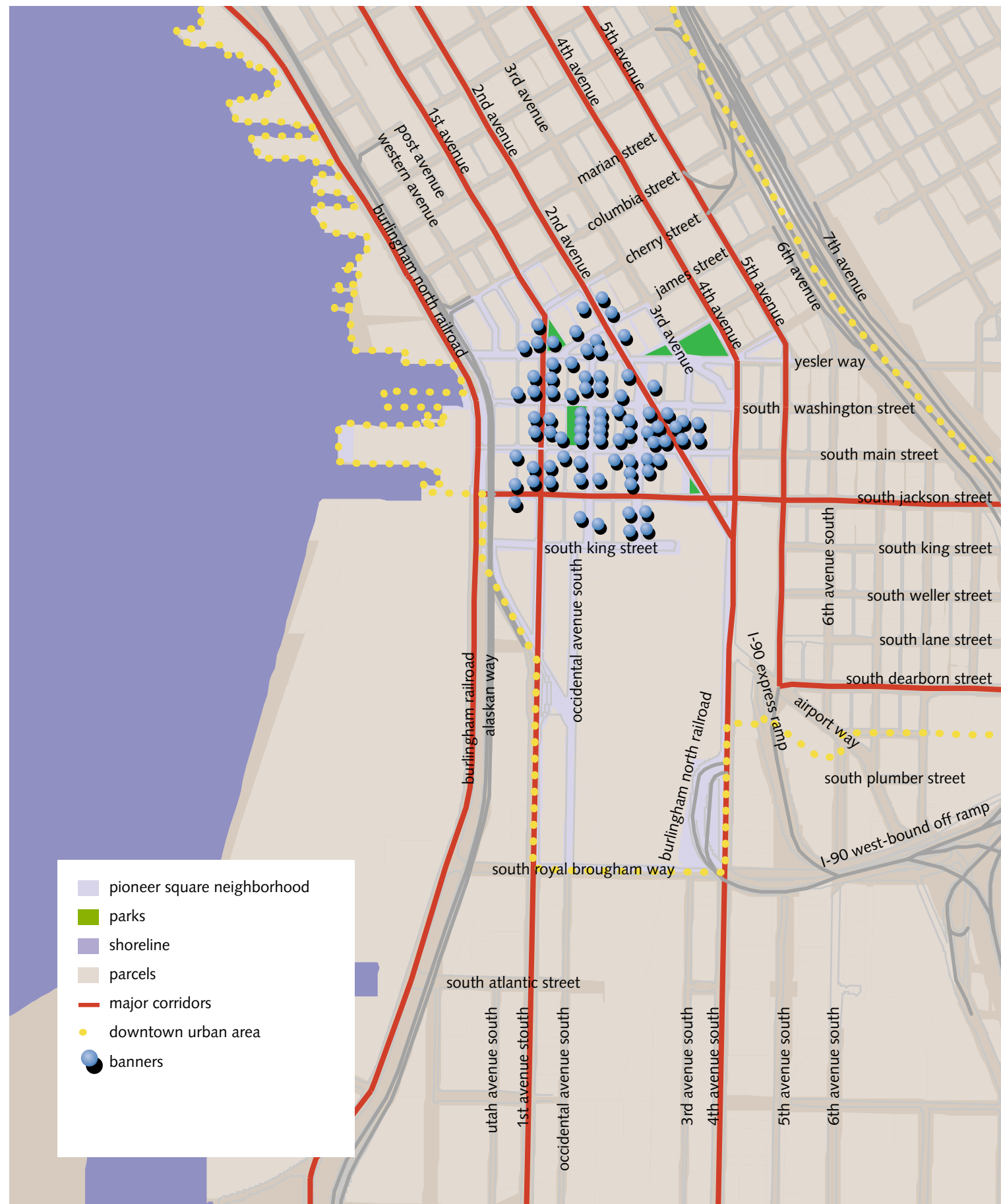
16 third/yessler



17 western/yesler



18 looking up king from alaskan



25



26



84



69



71



70



80



81



82



87



88



89



16



31



41



43



44



49



53



57



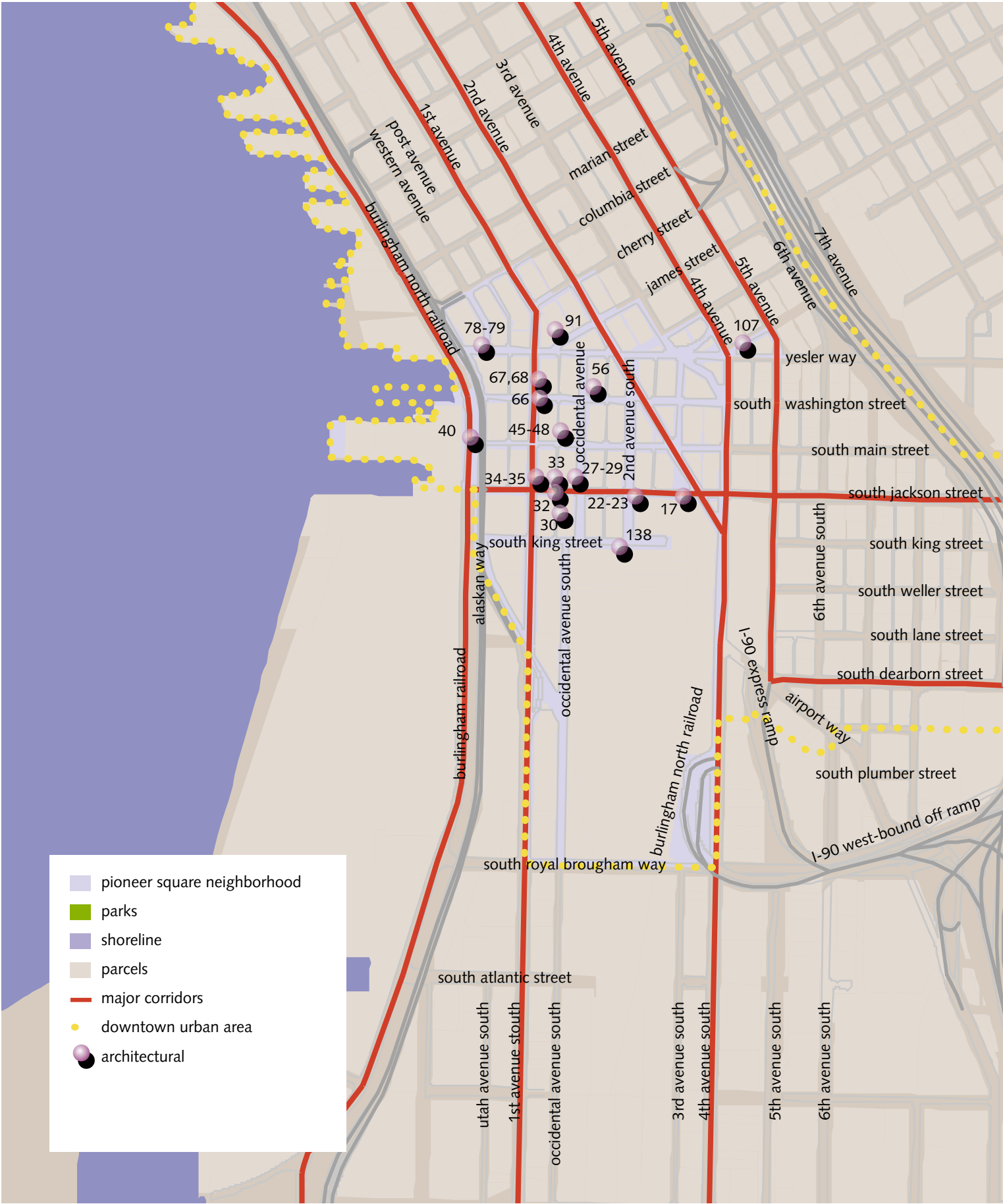
85



90



139



17



22



23



66



27-29



30



32



33



68



34-35



40



67



45-48



56



91



78-79



107



138



7 international district



8 international district



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



50



51



52



140



1.62



1.63



1.64



1.72



2.54



3.09



3.10



3.10 international district



3.11



3.13



3.14



4.125



4.126



4.127



4.128



4.129



4.130



4.159



21



92



124



125



137



2.23 international district



91 waterfront